

## ON THE VALIDITY OF FORUM'S CRITERIA



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Exclusively for the Yaroslavl Forum

It is very hard for me to say anything about the Yaroslavl Forum, because I was never personally invited to take part in it. I was not invited when I served as head of the Institute of Political Science, nor when I was a member of parliament, nor when I served as an adviser to Ukrainian presidents on political issues. I am not express-

ing my resentment at this point but rather stating plain facts. It seems that either I am not fit to be invited to the forum according to some unknown criteria or else the organisers' criteria are less than perfect.

Besides, we have received very little information about this forum in the Ukrainian segment of the Internet, let alone the

Ukrainian printed press or TV. I have never seen a single TV report and haven't read any full-fledged publication about this event. This is, of course, an issue to be addressed to those who are in charge of the Forum's publicity and press coverage.

For instance, I could possibly compare the Yaroslavl Forum to a sim-

ilar and practically anti-Russian forum known as 'YES', which takes place in Yalta every year. In that case, there is a huge number of TV reporters, journalists, live link-ups with other European countries, and a wonderful concert program (we even had Bill Clinton playing saxophone there). Accordingly, this Forum produces a huge informational impact in terms of the Ukrainian and international mass media. However, I am not sure that this forum was ever covered by the Russian mass media, since it is notorious for an anti-Russian stance. ■

## FORUM NEEDS TO BE STRUCTURED MORE THOROUGHLY



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The conference was very well organised. I very much liked the overall theme of the conference and the issues addressed in the working groups. Several highly distinguished experts took part in the working groups' debates.

The working groups, however, were poorly structured. We had so many speakers, who spoke about many different topics, which in many cases were not perfectly suited to the panel's specific topic. The working groups need to be structured more thoroughly. A precise list of speakers ought to be determined and the sequencing of the presentations should make sense.

The concluding panel, in

which President Medvedev addressed the auditorium, was a highlight of course. Due to some other undisciplined speakers, there was no time left for a panel debate between President Medvedev and some highly distinguished and excellent panelists, who ended up waiting in vain for a debate with the President.

In my section of the Forum, several speakers did not precisely know whether they would have time to present. This is my main point of criticism.

My general assessment is highly positive. The overall atmosphere was great, with many media on site and the chance to engage in networking. ■

## ALMOST PERFECTLY ORGANISED



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In terms of technical matters, I think that the Forum was well prepared, if not to say that it was almost perfectly organised.

As to the content of the Forum, I found that most subjects were topical and quite interesting, but there were too many speakers at the Forum (and among them too many Russians), and not enough room for others. In the panels that I attended, there was no opportunity to ask a question or make a comment.

The strangest panel

was the one on European Security, where a couple of mainly Russian speakers made statements that were more or less of a similar content, with no opportunity whatsoever for others to speak. As an expert on this issue, I felt that this panel was a quite strange event.

I very much liked the opportunity to see the wonderful town of Yaroslavl and to take advantage of the opportunity to speak with colleagues and friends from Russia and other states. ■